



# MOOSE JAW SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC.

## RULE OF TWO POLICY

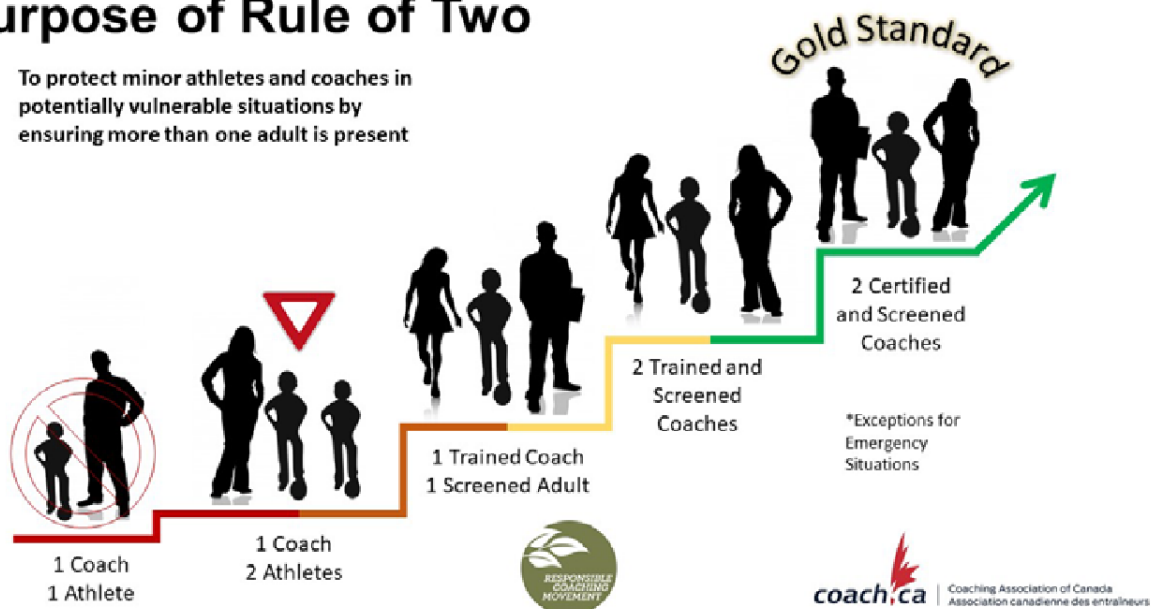
Player/Team Personnel/Member safety is a priority for Moose Jaw Soccer Association Inc. (MJSA). Our goal is to provide children a safe environment to play, as well as providing a feeling of safety when around team personnel and/or other members.

MJSA has adopted the “RULE of TWO”, which states “there must be a minimum of two screened and NCCP – trained or certified coaches (one must be the same gender as the athletes), with an athlete in all situations where the athlete is potentially vulnerable.” To keep players and coaches safe, coaches are to avoid all one-on-one interactions with individual players unless it is a medical emergency.

The Coaching Association of Canada has developed the following standards for the Rule of Two:

### Purpose of Rule of Two

To protect minor athletes and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring more than one adult is present



Canada Soccer expects that all organizations will work towards the “Gold Standard”. If two NCCP – trained or certified coaches aren’t available, screened volunteers (such as managers, support personnel, chaperones, and directors of the club or organization) should be available instead. If a screened volunteer isn’t available, there should always

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be more than one athlete with the coach (this is the lowest standard and is not recommended).

This policy is to be before/during/after team practices & games, travel and overnight stays (tournaments/PSL/Nationals, etc.). This may be difficult at times; however, it is imperative to ensure athlete and team personnel safety.

### **Travel:**

The following guidelines are strongly recommended during travel with athletes:

1. A Person in Authority may not be alone in a car with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent/guardian.
2. A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent/guardian.
3. Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority.

### **Locker Room/Changing Area/Meeting Room:**

The following guidelines are strongly recommended for locker rooms, changing areas, and meeting rooms:

1. Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual athlete should not occur in any room where there is reasonable expectation of privacy such as the locker room, washroom, or changing area. A second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions in any such room.
2. If Persons in Authority are not present in the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required.

### **Training/Competition Environment:**

The following guidelines are strongly recommended for the training and competition environment (including before, during, and after practices and games):

1. A Person in Authority should never be left alone with an athlete before or following a game or practice, unless they are the athlete's parent/guardian. If the athlete is the first to arrive, the athlete's parent should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives. Same would apply if the athlete would potentially be alone with a Person in Authority following a game or practice, the Person in Authority should ask another Person in Authority (or a parent/guardian of another athlete) to stay until all the athletes have been picked up. If an adult isn't available

then another athlete should be present in order to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single athlete.

2. Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual athlete should always be doing so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority.

3. For SSA competitions it is a requirement that two members of the team personnel on the bench must be the same gender as the athletes. One of these members must be coaching staff, second member can be support staff.

### **Gender Identity:**

A Person in Authority who is interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes. The following guidelines are strongly recommended:

1. For teams consisting of athletes of just one gender identity, a Person of Authority of the same gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.

2. For teams consisting of athletes of more than one gender identity (e.g., co-ed teams), a Person in Authority of each gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.